

## Potential Questions and Answers for Jan. 20 Press Call

1. What do you say to residents who claim that the odors from the landfill have negatively impacted their lives and health?

Answer: We certainly recognize that those living close to the landfill have had to endure foul odors emanating from the landfill at times and that it has had an effect on their quality of life. MDNR is doing a great job in the lead regarding odors; our air monitoring system compliments theirs and indicates that the levels of pollutants in the air around West Lake Landfill are consistent with other areas of metropolitan St. Louis.

2. Since this air monitoring effort was intended to establish a baseline prior to construction activities, does that mean that construction will begin soon on the isolation system?

Answer: EPA is currently evaluating isolation system options with input from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At this point, EPA has not made its decision on the next steps regarding an isolation system.

3. What will this air monitoring data be used for? Is this data only useful for the isolation system, or is it also useful for the long-term remedy decision making process?

Answer: EPA will use all data collected to date to help inform the long-term remedy decision at the site. In particular, this data will be useful as a reference for when any construction begins on site in order to identify any fugitive emissions that may emanate from the landfill as a result of the site work.

4. Will EPA continue off-site monitoring in the interim period between now and construction of the isolation barrier and construction of the long-term remedy?

Answer: EPA has established baseline levels for the typical landfill constituents for areas around the site. The agency will continue to monitor for the radiological components until the agency has one full year of data. Prior to any on-site construction, EPA will reactivate the monitoring system for use throughout any construction. MDNR continues to operate its on-site air monitoring system.

5. Does the hydrogen sulfide data indicate a potential threat to those living and working around the landfill?

Answer: Due to the methodology used in collecting the hydrogen sulfide data, EPA has low confidence in the reliability of that data (and of only the hydrogen sulfide data). EPA has now optimized its methodology for collecting hydrogen sulfide data to provide the agency with more consistent results. EPA encourages the public to review the hydrogen sulfide data collected by the MDNR.